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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,106	04/15/2004	Ronald Edward Steele	4-31394BD1	9876
1095	7590	06/16/2006	EXAMINER	
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080				ROYDS, LESLIE A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1614		

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/826,106	STEELE, RONALD EDWARD
	Examiner Leslie A. Royds	Art Unit 1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 11-13 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 11-13 are presented for examination. Claims 1-10 were cancelled pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment filed April 15, 2004.

Requirement for Election

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of diseases or conditions as recited in present claim 11.

The species of disorders or conditions are independent or distinct because the species are each distinct from one another in etiology, pathophysiological manifestations, treatment protocol (i.e., duration of treatment, dosage amounts of pharmaceutical agents to be administered, frequency of treatment, etc.) and patient population such that a comprehensive search of the patent and non-patent literature for any one such disorder or condition would not necessarily result in a comprehensive search of any one or more of the other disorders or conditions recited in the present claims. Notwithstanding that Applicant may have established an underlying commonality to this genus of disorders or conditions, namely that each may be effectively treated with an aldosterone synthase inhibitor, it remains that the art does not necessarily recognize such a shared characteristic as being common to each of the numerous disorders or conditions encompassed by the claims. In addition, while there may be incidental overlap between those patients experiencing, for example, hypertension, and those experiencing diabetes mellitus type 2, such does not change the fact that each of these disorders or conditions differ from one another in etiology, pathophysiological manifestation, treatment protocol in terms of the dosage amounts and frequency of administration of the therapeutic agent required and patient population affected. For these reasons, they are, therefore, considered patentably distinct. It is

noted that the discovery of the treatment of any one of the presently claimed disorders or conditions using an aldosterone synthase inhibitor would not necessarily anticipate, reasonably suggest or render obvious the treatment of any one or more of the other disorders or conditions of the present claims for the same reasons described above.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, they require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02) and they have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, the requirement for election for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species of disorder or condition as recited in present claim 11 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 11 is generic to a plurality of species.

Applicant is advised that a proper reply to this requirement must include an identification of the single species of disorder or condition that is elected consonant with this requirement and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141. If claims are added after the election, Applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. Please reference MPEP §809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though this requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R. 1.143) and (ii) an identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

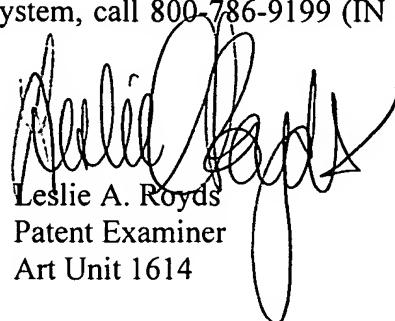
Should Applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, Applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the Examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie A. Royds whose telephone number is (571)-272-6096. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00 AM-5:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin H. Marschel can be reached on (571)-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Leslie A. Roys
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1614

May 25, 2006



Ardin H. Marschel 6/13/06
ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER